



Grant County Health Department

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For Immediate Release:

March of Dimes Grant Awarded to Grant County Health Department

The March of Dimes Wisconsin Chapter presented the Grant County Health Department with a community award to assist with starting a Cribs of Kids® program in Grant County. Cribs for Kids® is a safe-sleep education program for low-income families designed to help reduce the risk of injury and death of infants due to unsafe sleep environments.

According to Health Department Director Jeff Kindrai, infant deaths from unsafe sleep environments are on the rise. Kindrai cites a study by Shapiro-Mendoza, et al published in the Feb 2009, Pediatrics journal that found that from 1984 to 2004, infant death rates caused by accidental strangulation or suffocation in bed increased from 2.8 deaths per 100,000 live births to 12.5 deaths per 100,000 live births. Kindrai adds "There are other concerns about keeping infants safe as they sleep such as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). While the number of deaths attributed to SIDS is decreasing overall, it is still a problem that causes great tragedy when it occurs. I am pleased that this grant will assist us in helping families protect their babies when they are vulnerable".

The award totaling \$1,250 will be used to purchase GRACO Pack N Play® cribs as well as educational materials regarding 'safe sleeping' and other important safety tips that will be given to low income families throughout Grant County. Grant County Health Department, Public Health Nurse, Jenny Pritchett applied for, and is coordinating this grant.

For more information, please contact Jenny at (608) 723-6416.

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